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PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Peter J. Kumpon; Lee A Sutherland; Christopher A. Pollard; Clark D. Brace

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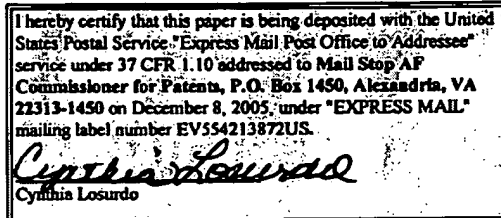
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on August 19, 2005 ("the Office Action"), and having considered the Advisory Action mailed on November 18, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendments be entered to place the application identified above in condition for allowance or better form for consideration on appeal. Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks made herein. Applicant has submitted herewith a petition and requisite fee for a one-month extension of time and a Notice of Appeal.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS begin on Page 7 of this paper.